

Appendix A

Traffic Issues Along the B5239 24 May 2020 – Email to Network Management

Dear Danny,

At the last Parish Council meeting I agreed to write again to the council regarding the concerns of residents with the traffic through the Haigh parish.

Last year we saw some positive actions to improve the situation.

- The speed limit was reduced to a consistent 40mph from the canal bridge to the junction of Riley Lane and Haigh Road
- new 'cats eyes' were installed on two of the major bends
- the white lines on much of the B5239 were reinstated.
- residents helped clear the hedgerows that were obstructing the view for vehicles entering the carriageway around the Hampsons Green area.
- a traffic survey took place to review the volume and speed of the traffic in the area

It was agreed that we should repeat the traffic survey in Spring 2020 to see if further measures are required.

At a meeting of the Parish Council and officers of Wigan MBC, the senior Wigan officers suggested it should be possible to introduce some additional speed monitoring device somewhere along the route.

Clearly the Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant affect on the traffic in this area, volumes are significantly down but that has given many the opportunity to ignore the speed limits and use the roads as a race track

I don't think it would not be appropriate to replicate the survey at this time but I would like to note the current observations made by the Parish Council and members of the public.

- In the first three months of 2020 there were three recorded 'hedgebusters' in this area. Fortunately none resulted in serious injuries and interestingly two were on the extension of Meadow Pit Lane towards Blackrod where the speed limit was not changed and remains at National Speed Limit until you enter the Bolton borough where it drops down to 30mph.
 - January – through the hedge on Meadow Pit Lane between the two most significant bends towards Blackrod. The hedge has now had a significant repair
 - February – through the hedge on the B5239, see picture attached
 - March – again on the bends of Meadow Pit Lane, see pictures attached.
 - since the lockdown and the major reduction in traffic we have no recorded incidents
 - It is clear that the speed limit in this area also needs to be reduced to 40mph
- Residents have complemented the changes to the 'cats eyes' and road markings but believe these need to be extended to the bend into Riley Lane from Haigh Road and extended to the bend at Hampsons Green.
- Our earlier requests suggested that in the areas most densely populated, i.e. Red Rock Lane from the canal to Hampsons Green, the speed limit should be reduced further to 30mph. I understand that this is the intention of the second speed survey. Perhaps this can be rescheduled when 'normal' conditions resume.
- Finally we would like to see some form of speed monitoring on the route, whether this is just a speed indicator monitor as exists on other local routes or a full speed camera installation, that will cause individuals to change their driving habits.

Appendix A

Thank you again for the actions in 2019. We hope you and your colleagues remain safe and we look forward to continuing our dialogue when conditions allow.

regards

Colin Higham
Haigh Parish Council